

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- At a meeting of the Politburo of the SED late in May 1955, there was a discussion of the recent Warsaw Conference of the states of the Soviet bloc. The meeting was attended by all full members and candidate members of the Politburo, as well as by the delegates to the Conference; however, those who were not members of the Politburo were dismissed after they had given oral reports on the events of the Conference. Soviet Ambassador G. M. Pushkin was also present.
- After the non-members left, Deputy Minister President Walter Ulbricht criticized Otto Grotewohl for negotiating personally with Soviet Premier Bulganin; this act, he said, was detrimental to negotiations then in progress between Ulbricht and Willi Stoph for East Germany and Jozef Cyrankiewicz for Poland. Ulbricht claimed that the Poles and Czechs would have voted to let East Germany establish its own armed forces if the Germans had agreed to a further adjustment of the Oder-Neisse line.
- Grotewohl sharply rejected Ulbricht's reproaches. He stated sarcastically that Bulganin "unfortunately" brought with him to the Conference directives from the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet Council of Ministers which did not take into consideration Ulbricht's and Stoph's wishes. He advised the Politburo not to entertain false hopes; it was his belief, based on statements by Bulganin, that if the West will agree to certain guarantees, the USSR is willing to permit the neutralization of "additional people's democracies" in order to relieve international tension.
- Ulbricht asked whether it was clear what effect such a policy would have on the members of the SED. President Wilhelm Pieck interpolated a pious reference to "having faith in the working class".
- At the Warsaw Conference, proposals submitted by Ulbricht, Stoph, and Heinz Hoffmann for sealing off East Germany from West Berlin and from West Germany were not approved by the Soviet delegation.
- On the third day of the Conference, according to Grotewohl, the German

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delegation was reprimanded by the Russians as a result of reports received by the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, showing that ill will among the East German population was caused by serious breaches of the law taking place with the knowledge of the SED Politburo and the DDR Council of Ministers. Pieck replied that some members of the Politburo did not follow the directives issued by Pushkin and passed to them by Pieck; he said that the "collective cooperation" was unsatisfactory. Pushkin supported Pieck's statement, and advised the Politburo to imitate the high morale of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, which, he said, has unlimited trust in Pieck, as has the Soviet Council of Ministers; he added that Pieck's directives are binding on all members of the Politburo.

7. Ulbricht protested that the times call for tough men who are prepared to accept the consequences of their actions. Pushkin said that this was true, but that no action should be taken arbitrarily or against Party policies. When Ulbricht asked whether this remark was an expression of lack of confidence in him, Pushkin replied by repeating Pieck's reference to collective cooperation.
8. Certain economic questions arising from the Warsaw Conference were discussed:
 - a. It was stated that "Stalinstadt" (Fürstenberg) was constructed according to improper calculations, so that future utilization of the industrial complex there for East Germany only would be extremely difficult. The emphasis in the future should be on the use of Polish and Czech ore at Stalinstadt to produce arms for Poland and Czechoslovakia.
 - b. Agricultural imports into East Germany from the satellites must be reduced by half, since the latter were ordered at the Warsaw Conference to set up state reserves.
 - c. The Soviet delegation ordered the German delegation to improve the quality of production by the VEBs, to produce without state subsidies, and to introduce ☐ export ☐ commensurate with those of its competitors.
 - d. The Soviet delegation advised the Germans to speed up the collectivization of agriculture, stating that the Soviet Union is prepared to increase the amount of farm machinery by delivering large equipment to Germany.
9. The Russians criticized the insufficient reliability of the East German police and the KVP. They recommended the elimination of unreliable members by attrition, through refusing permission to reenlist and filling the resultant vacancies with reliable young men.

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